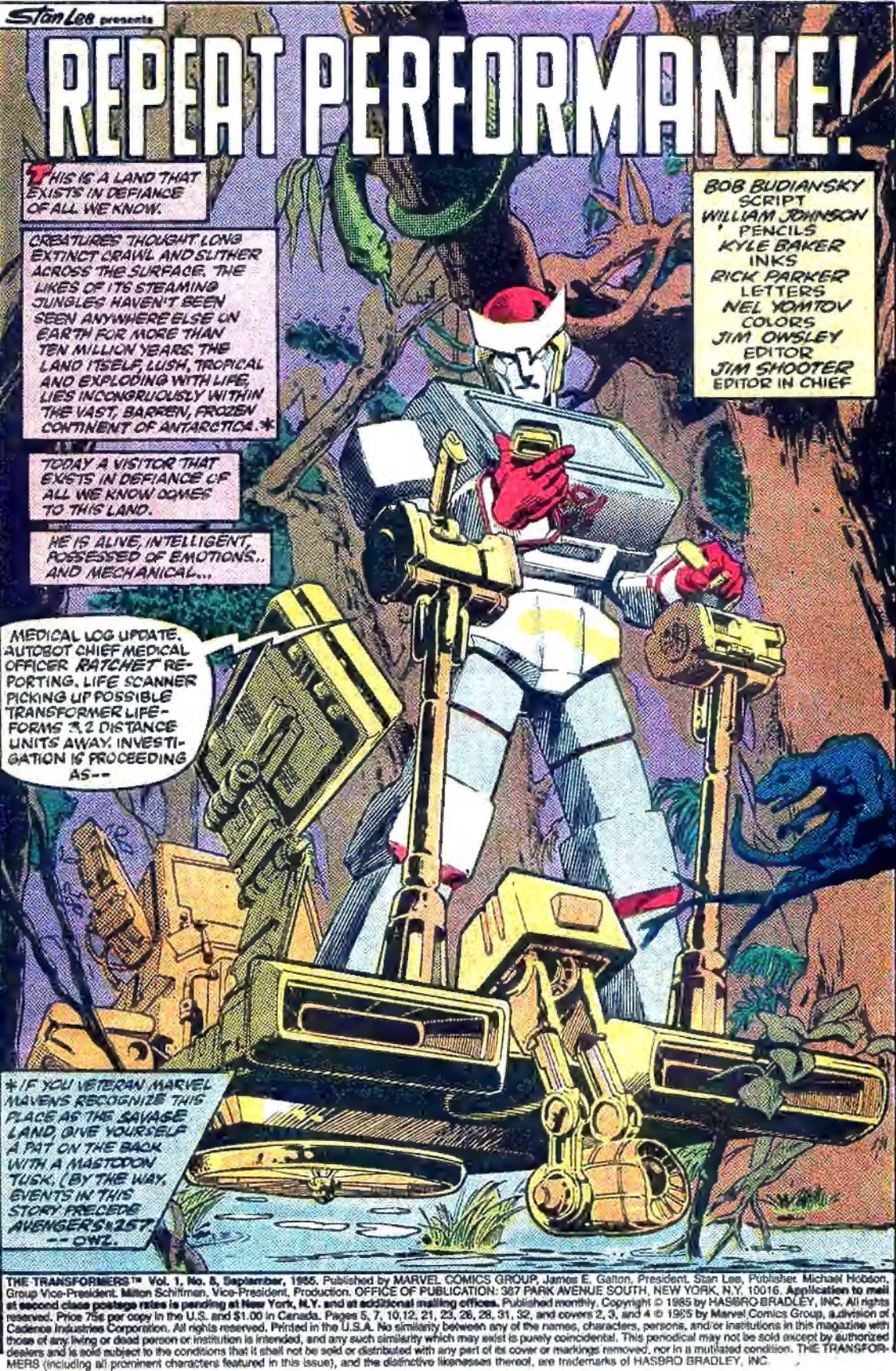
MARVEL
21st Sept '85
NOW 30p
THE TRANSFORMERS
AUTOBOT
FREE
GIANT TRANSFORMERS POSTER!
NOW WEEKLY!
Cadbury's
Wildlife BAR
FREE
PROJECT BOOK TOKEN 1


Stan Lee presents
REPEAT PERFORMANCE!
THIS IS A LAND THAT EXISTS IN DEFIANCE OF ALL WE KNOW.
CREATURES THOUGHT LONG EXTINCT CRAWL AND SLITHER ACROSS THE SURFACE. THE LIKES OF ITS STEAMING JUNGLES HAVEN'T BEEN SEEN ANYWHERE ELSE ON EARTH FOR MORE THAN TEN MILLION YEARS. THE LAND ITSELF, LUSH, TROPICAL AND EXPLODING WITH LIFE, LIES INCONGRUOUSLY WITHIN THE VAST, BARREN, FROZEN CONTINENT OF ANTARCTICA.*
TODAY A VISITOR THAT EXISTS IN DEFIANCE OF ALL WE KNOW COMES TO THIS LAND.
HE IS ALIVE, INTELLIGENT, POSSESSED OF EMOTIONS.. AND MECHANICAL...
MEDICAL LOG UPDATE. AUTOBOT CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER RATCHET REPORTING. LIFE SCANNER PICKING UP POSSIBLE TRANSFORMER LIFE-FORMS 3.2 DISTANCE UNITS AWAY. INVESTIGATION IS PROCEEDING AS--
*IF YOU VETERAN MARVEL MAVENS RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE AS THE SAVAGE LAND, GIVE YOURSELF A PAT ON THE BACK WITH A MASTODON TUSK. (BY THE WAY, EVENTS IN THIS STORY PRECEDE AVENGERS #257. --DWZ.
BOB BUDIANSKY SCRIPT
WILLIAM JOHNSON PENCILS
KYLE BAKER INKS
RICK PARKER LETTERS
NEL YOMTOV COLORS
JIM OWSLEY EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

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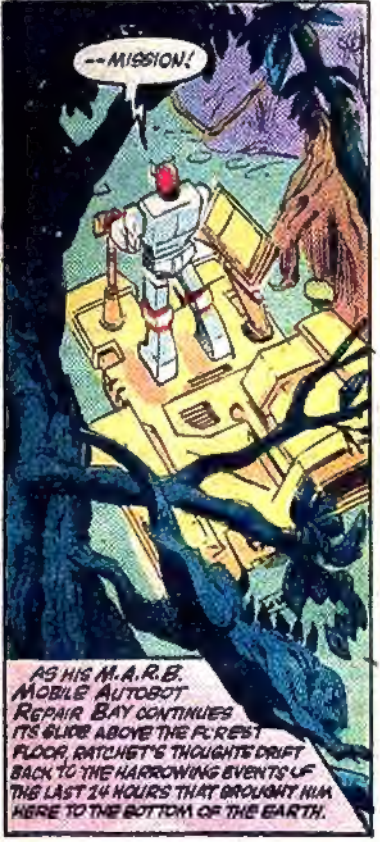
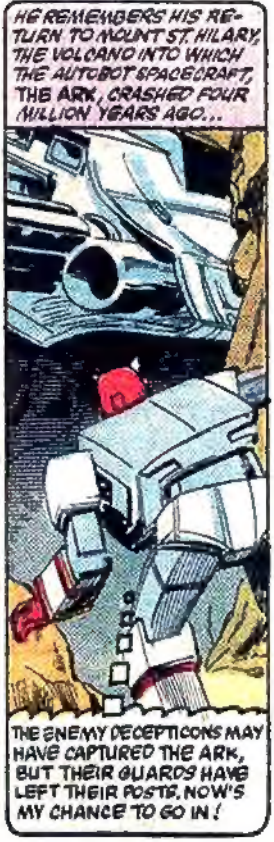
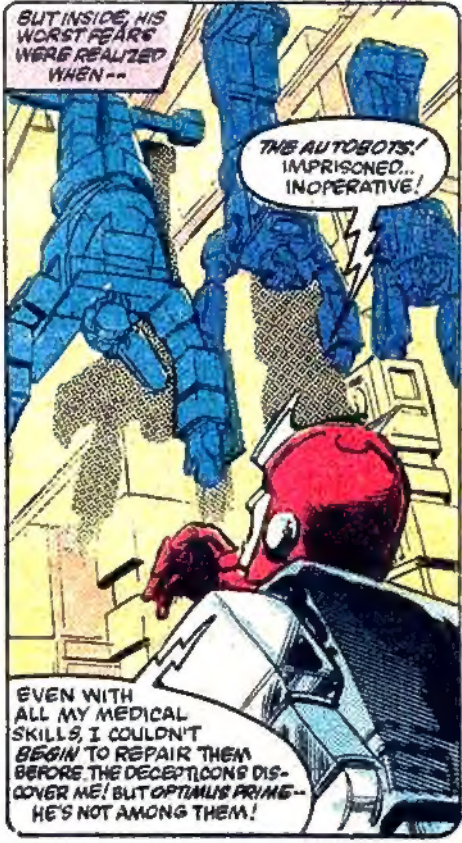
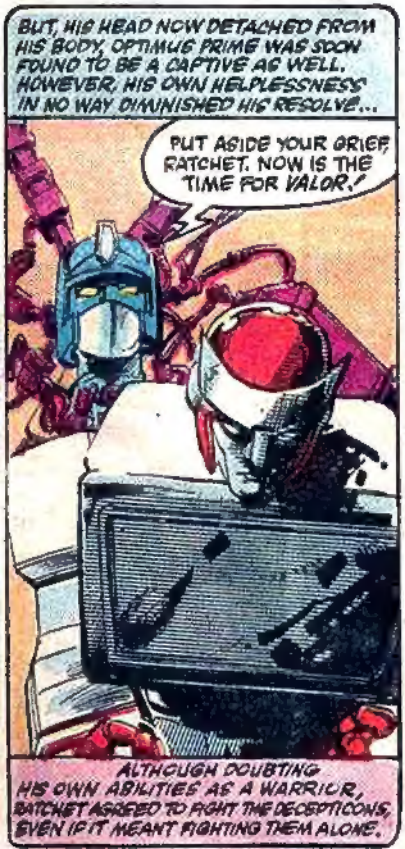
--?
HSSSSSS
WHAT'S THIS?
UHH... I REALLY HAVEN'T THE TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU WANT, TUBULAR, CARBON-BASED LIFE FORM!
COULD YOU PLEASE FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO TALK TO?
LISTEN, I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU NICELY TO LEAVE--
HSSSSSS
PERHAPS A SMALL BLAST FROM MY LASER SCALPEL WILL GET MY MESSAGE ACROSS MORE CONVINCINGLY!
ZZAP
HMM... PUSHY CREATURE, THAT TUBE-THING, BUT CURIOUS...
SPLISH
BUT NO, I CANNOT STOP TO FURTHER FAMILIARIZE MYSELF WITH IT.
THERE MUST BE NO DELAY IN THE COMPLETION OF MY--
2

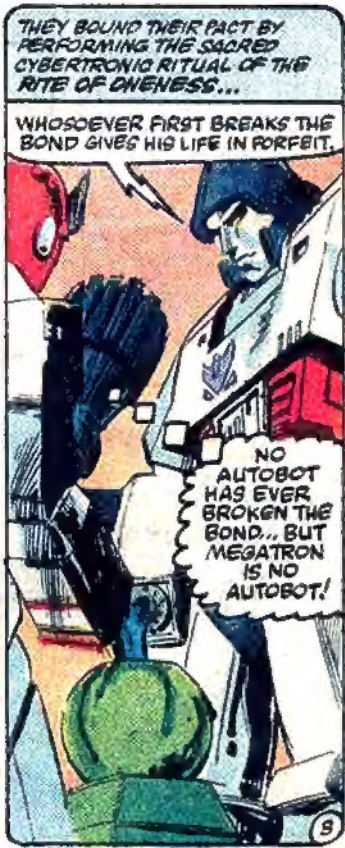

--MISSION!
AS HIS M.A.R.B. MOBILE AUTOBOT REPAIR BAY CONTINUES ITS GLIDE ABOVE THE FOREST FLOOR, RATCHET'S THOUGHTS DRIFT BACK TO THE HARROWING EVENTS OF THE LAST 24 HOURS THAT BROUGHT HIM HERE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE EARTH.


HE REMEMBERS HIS RETURN TO MOUNT ST. HILARY, THE VOLCANO INTO WHICH THE AUTOBOT SPACECRAFT, THE ARK, CRASHED FOUR MILLION YEARS AGO...
THE ENEMY DECEPTICONS MAY HAVE CAPTURED THE ARK, BUT THEIR GUARDS HAVE LEFT THEIR POSTS. NOW'S MY CHANCE TO GO IN!

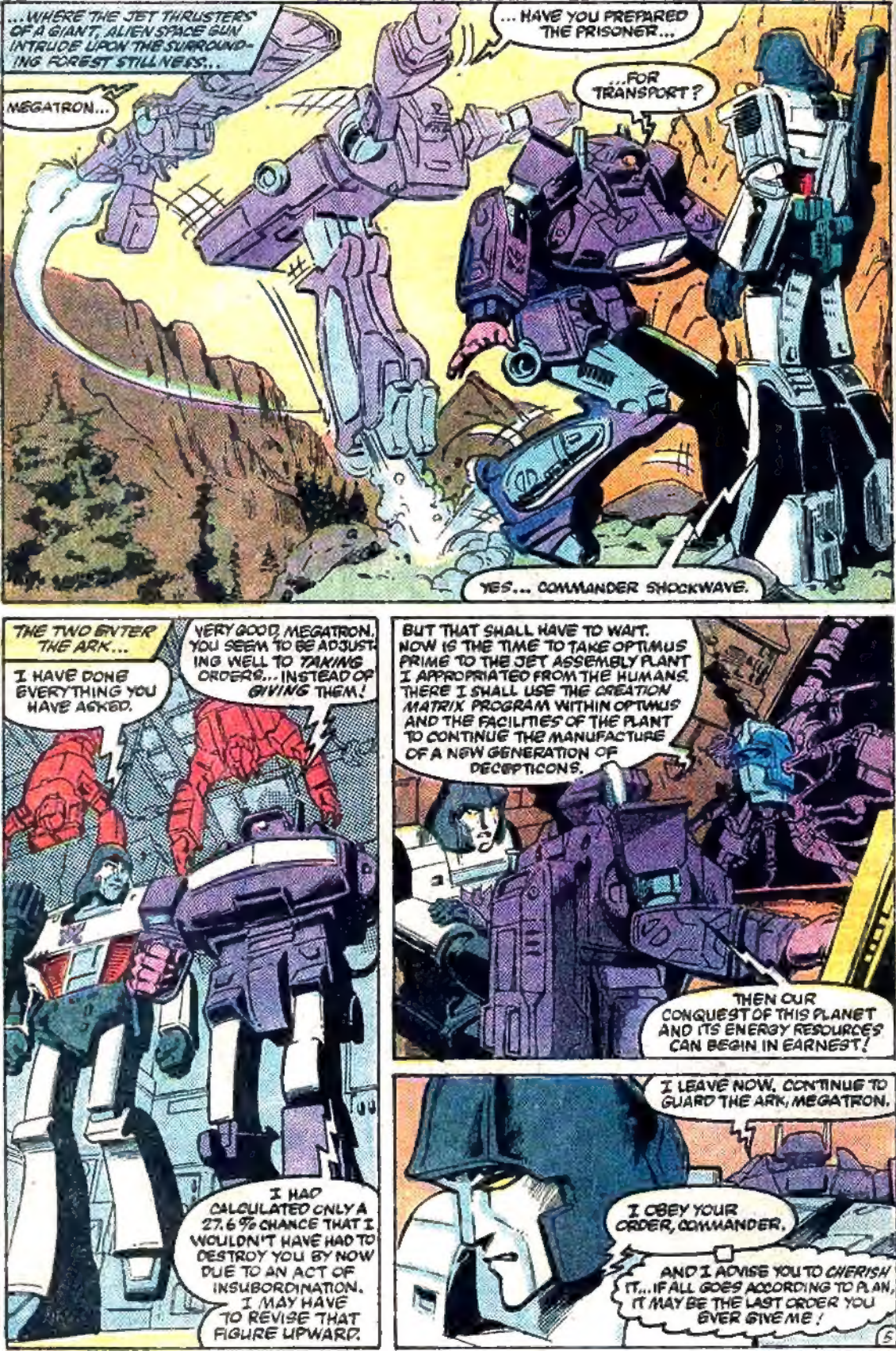

BUT INSIDE, HIS WORST FEARS WERE REALIZED WHEN--
THE AUTOBOTS! IMPRISONED... INOPERATIVE!
EVEN WITH ALL MY MEDICAL SKILLS, I COULDN'T BEGIN TO REPAIR THEM BEFORE THE DECEPTICONS DISCOVER ME! BUT OPTIMUS PRIME-- HE'S NOT AMONG THEM!

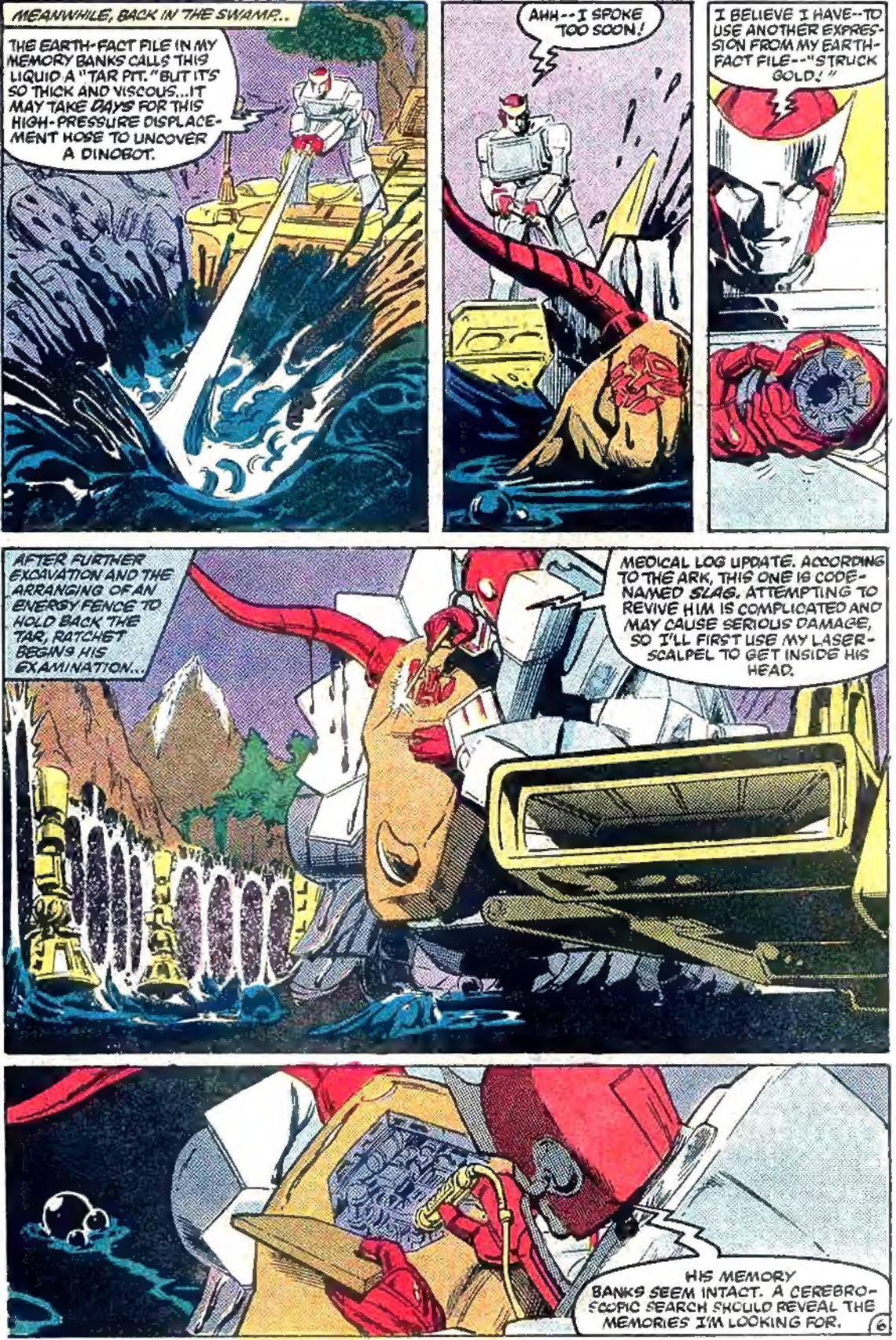

BUT, HIS HEAD NOW DETACHED FROM HIS BODY, OPTIMUS PRIME WAS SOON FOUND TO BE A CAPTIVE AS WELL. HOWEVER, HIS OWN HELPLESSNESS IN NO WAY DIMINISHED HIS RESOLVE...
PUT ASIDE YOUR GRIEF, RATCHET. NOW IS THE TIME FOR VALOR!
ALTHOUGH DOUBTING HIS OWN ABILITIES AS A WARRIOR, RATCHET AGREED TO FIGHT THE DECEPTICONS, EVEN IF IT MEANT FIGHTING THEM ALONE.

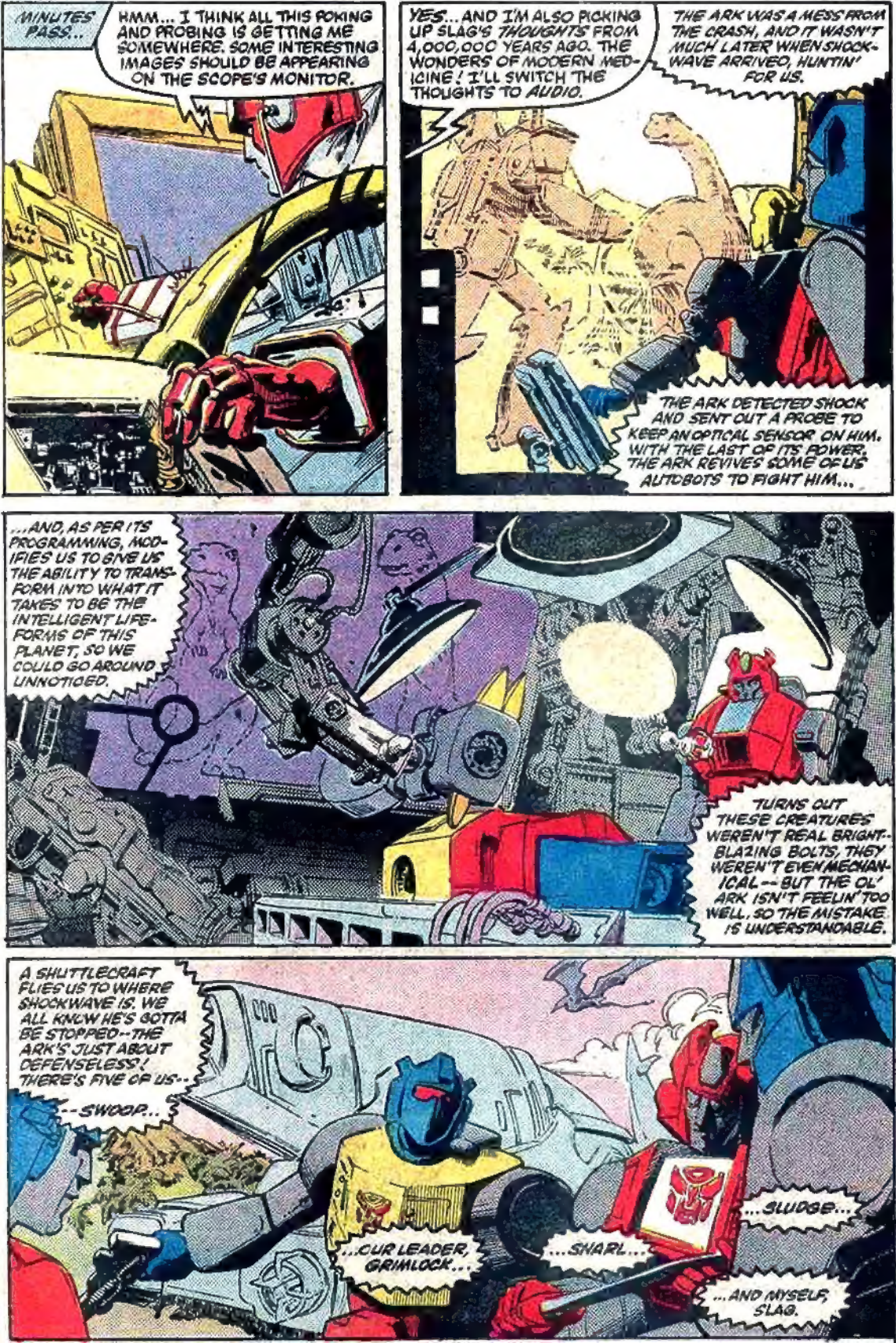
HOWEVER, THE MURDEROUS MEGATRON, FORMER LEADER OF THE DECEPTICONS, EASILY OVERPOWERED RATCHET MOMENTS LATER.
ONLY RATCHET'S PROMISE OF DEFEATING SHOCKWAVE, THE NEW DECEPTICON LEADER, IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS AND THE OTHER AUTOBOT'S FREEDOM STOPPED MEGATRON FROM DESTROYING RATCHET RIGHT THEN AND THERE.


THEY BOUND THEIR PACT BY PERFORMING THE SACRED CYBERTRONIC RITUAL OF THE RITE OF ONENESS...
WHOSOEVER FIRST BREAKS THE BOND GIVES HIS LIFE IN FORFEIT.
NO AUTOBOT HAS EVER BROKEN THE BOND... BUT MEGATRON IS NO AUTOBOT!

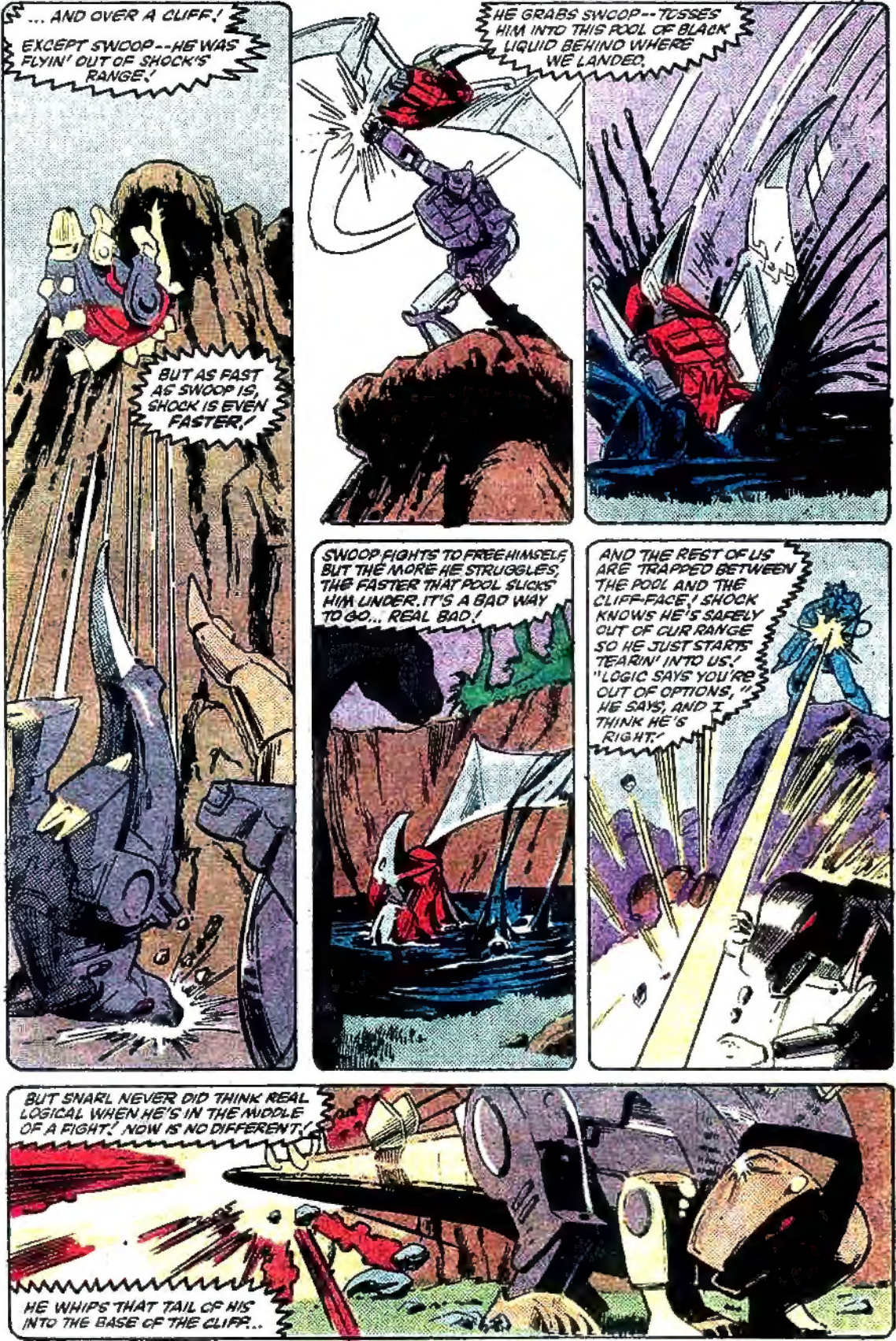
USING A SMALL SHUTTLE-CRAFT FROM THE ARK, RATCHET IMMEDIATELY LEFT MOUNT ST. HILARY...
THE ARK'S RECORDS INDICATE IT SENT FIVE AUTOBOT WARRIORS--THE DINOBOTS--TO DEFEAT SHOCKWAVE WHEN HE FIRST ARRIVED ON EARTH 4,000,000 YEARS AGO.
SINCE SHOCKWAVE HADN'T BEEN HEARD FROM UNTIL RECENTLY, THEY WERE PROBABLY SUCCESSFUL. MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO LOCATE THEM SO I CAN HOPEFULLY FIND OUT WHAT THEY DID TO HIM--AND DO IT TO HIM AGAIN!
THE DINOBOTS TRACKED HIM HERE--ANTARCTICA!
MEGATRON STILL BOTHERS ME, THOUGH. TRUSTING HIM DOESN'T SEEM A PARTICULARLY WISE COURSE OF ACTION.
AND USING THIS ALTERNATIVE TO ESCAPE IS NO ALTERNATIVE EITHER--HE STILL HOLDS MY COMRADES!
I MUST THINK LIKE A WARRIOR, AS OPTIMUS PRIME INSTRUCTED ME. I MUST THINK OF A THIRD OPTION!
RATCHET'S RECOLLECTION IS INTERRUPTED WHEN...
OH! READINGS SHOW THE PRESENCE OF TRANSFORMER LIFE-FORMS--THIS IS THE PLACE TO DIG!
MOUNT ST. HILARY, CASCADES RANGE, OREGON...
4


...WHERE THE JET THRUSTERS OF A GIANT, ALIEN SPACE GUN INTRUDE UPON THE SURROUNDING FOREST STILL NEES...
MEGATRON...
... HAVE YOU PREPARED THE PRISONER...
...FOR TRANSPORT?
YES... COMMANDER SHOCKWAVE.
THE TWO ENTER THE ARK...
I HAVE DONE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE ASKED.
VERY GOOD, MEGATRON. YOU SEEM TO BE ADJUSTING WELL TO TAKING ORDERS... INSTEAD OF GIVING THEM!
I HAD CALCULATED ONLY A 27.6% CHANCE THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DESTROY YOU BY NOW DUE TO AN ACT OF INSUBORDINATION. I MAY HAVE TO REVISE THAT FIGURE UPWARD.
BUT THAT SHALL HAVE TO WAIT. NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE OPTIMUS PRIME TO THE JET ASSEMBLY PLANT I APPROPRIATED FROM THE HUMANS. THERE I SHALL USE THE CREATION MATRIX PROGRAM WITHIN OPTIMUS AND THE FACILITIES OF THE PLANT TO CONTINUE THE MANUFACTURE OF A NEW GENERATION OF DECEPTICONS.
THEN OUR CONQUEST OF THIS PLANET AND ITS ENERGY RESOURCES CAN BEGIN IN EARNEST!
I LEAVE NOW. CONTINUE TO GUARD THE ARK, MEGATRON.
I OBEY YOUR ORDER, COMMANDER.
AND I ADVISE YOU TO CHERISH IT... IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, IT MAY BE THE LAST ORDER YOU EVER GIVE ME!
5


MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE SWAMP...
THE EARTH-FACT FILE IN MY MEMORY BANKS CALLS THIS LIQUID A "TAR PIT." BUT IT'S SO THICK AND VISCOUS...IT MAY TAKE DAYS FOR THIS HIGH-PRESSURE DISPLACEMENT HOSE TO UNCOVER A DINOBOT.
AHH--I SPOKE TOO SOON!
I BELIEVE I HAVE--TO USE ANOTHER EXPRESSION FROM MY EARTH-FACT FILE--"STRUCK GOLD!"
AFTER FURTHER EXCAVATION AND THE ARRANGING OF AN ENERGY FENCE TO HOLD BACK THE TAR, RATCHET BEGINS HIS EXAMINATION...
MEDICAL LOG UPDATE. ACCORDING TO THE ARK, THIS ONE IS CODE-NAMED SLAG. ATTEMPTING TO REVIVE HIM IS COMPLICATED AND MAY CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE, SO I'LL FIRST USE MY LASER-SCALPEL TO GET INSIDE HIS HEAD.
HIS MEMORY BANKS SEEM INTACT. A CEREBROSCOPIC SEARCH SHOULD REVEAL THE MEMORIES I'M LOOKING FOR.
6


MINUTES PASS...
HMM... I THINK ALL THIS POKING AND PROBING IS GETTING ME SOMEWHERE. SOME INTERESTING IMAGES SHOULD BE APPEARING ON THE SCOPE'S MONITOR.
YES... AND I'M ALSO PICKING UP SLAG'S THOUGHTS FROM 4,000,000 YEARS AGO. THE WONDERS OF MODERN MEDICINE! I'LL SWITCH THE THOUGHTS TO AUDIO.
THE ARK WAS A MESS FROM THE CRASH, AND IT WASN'T MUCH LATER WHEN SHOCKWAVE ARRIVED, HUNTIN' FOR US.
THE ARK DETECTED SHOCK AND SENT OUT A PROBE TO KEEP AN OPTICAL SENSOR ON HIM. WITH THE LAST OF ITS POWER, THE ARK REVIVES SOME OF US AUTOBOTS TO FIGHT HIM...
...AND, AS PER ITS PROGRAMMING, MODIFIES US TO GIVE US THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM INTO WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE INTELLIGENT LIFEFORMS OF THIS PLANET, SO WE COULD GO AROUND UNNOTICED.
TURNS OUT THESE CREATURES WEREN'T REAL BRIGHT-- BLAZING BOLTS, THEY WEREN'T EVEN MECHANICAL -- BUT THE OL' ARK ISN'T FEELIN' TOO WELL, SO THE MISTAKE IS UNDERSTANDABLE.
A SHUTTLECRAFT FLIES US TO WHERE SHOCKWAVE IS. WE ALL KNOW HE'S GOTTA BE STOPPED--THE ARK'S JUST ABOUT DEFENSELESS! THERE'S FIVE OF US--
--SWOOP...
...OUR LEADER, GRIMLOCK...
...SNARL...
...SLUDGE...
...AND MYSELF, SLAG.

THERE'S SHOCKWAVE! GRIMLOCK GIVES THE ORDER-- "DINOBOTS, TRANSFORM AND ATTACK!"
WE ALL COME AT HIM AT ONCE, AND IT'S MORE THAN THAT ONE-EYED SCRAPHEAP CAN HANDLE! SWOOP DIVEBOMBS HIM, SNARL TAIL-BLASTS HIM...
...I BURN HIM AND THEN GRIMLOCK CLAMPS HIS JAWS 'ROUND SHOCK'S GUN ARM—NO WAY HE'S GONNA GET LOOSE NOW!
NOW SLUDGE GRABS HIM! C'MON, DINOBOTS, LET'S POUND THIS 'CON TO POWDER!
BUT WE UNDERESTIMATE HIM... HE'S JUST BEEN PLAYIN' WITH US!
ONE PUNCH AND BLAM! LIKE A BUNCHA HEX NUTS, WE'RE ALL KNOCKED AWAY..


... AND OVER A CLIFF!
EXCEPT SWOOP--HE WAS FLYIN' OUT OF SHOCK'S RANGE!
BUT AS FAST AS SWOOP IS, SHOCK IS EVEN FASTER!
HE GRABS SWOOP--TOSSES HIM INTO THIS POOL OF BLACK LIQUID BEHIND WHERE WE LANDED.
SWOOP FIGHTS TO FREE HIMSELF BUT THE MORE HE STRUGGLES, THE FASTER THAT POOL SUCKS HIM UNDER. IT'S A BAD WAY TO GO... REAL BAD!
AND THE REST OF US ARE TRAPPED BETWEEN THE POOL AND THE CLIFF-FACE! SHOCK KNOWS HE'S SAFELY OUT OF OUR RANGE SO HE JUST STARTS TEARIN' INTO US! "LOGIC SAYS YOU'RE OUT OF OPTIONS," HE SAYS, AND I THINK HE'S RIGHT."
BUT SNARL NEVER DID THINK REAL LOGICAL WHEN HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT! NOW IS NO DIFFERENT!
HE WHIPS THAT TAIL OF HIS INTO THE BASE OF THE CLIFF...

..AND WOULDN'T YA KNOW THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN COMES CRASHIN' DOWN ON US--AND SHOCKWAVE WITH IT.!
GUESS' OL' SHOCK IS TOO SMART TO REALIZE HOW DUMB SNARL CAN BE!
AND HE SURE IS DUMB 'CAUSE WE'RE ALL BEIN' KNOCKED INTO THAT BLACK POOL BEHIND US!
AND WE'RE ALL SINKIN' FAST, EVEN FASTER THAN SWOOP DID.!
BUT AT LEAST I SEE OL' SHOCK AIN'T GOIN' ANYWHERE EITHER.!
" THIS IS THE LAST IMAGE I GET FROM SLAG'S MIND--THE TAR PIT MUST HAVE..."
...FINISHED PULLING HIM UNDER AFTER THIS.
POP
HIS SURVIVAL OVERRIDE WOULD THEN HAVE SHUT HIS SYSTEMS DOWN TO CONSERVE ENERGY...
...UNTIL THE DAY CAME WHEN HE COULD FREE HIMSELF... WHICH HAPPENED WHEN MY PROBE UNWITTINGLY DUG HIM OUT! * I MUST-
* SEE TRANSFORMERS # 4 -- OWL.
YOW.!
CLANG

SLAG! YOU WOKE UP!
YOU MUST HAVE THE SAME SURVIVAL PROGRAMMING AS SHOCKWAVE--WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIME TO COME BACK TO LIFE!
SPLAT
YOU... ATTACKED... ME...
YOU'LL... DIE FOR THAT!
HOLD ON! I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
SEE?
AUTOBOT...? YOU'RE... AN AUTOBOT?
R-RIGHT! I CAME HERE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP--SHOCK-WAVE LIVES AGAIN... AND I NEED YOU DINOBOTS TO STOP HIM AGAIN!
WHY DIDNCHA SAY SO RIGHT AWAY?! WE DINOBOTS NEVER START A JOB WE DON'T FINISH!

MARVEL
28th Sept '85
№28 30p
TRANSFORMERS
HEROIC
AUTOBOT
Introducing-
THE DINOBOTS!
Cadbury's
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BAR
FREE
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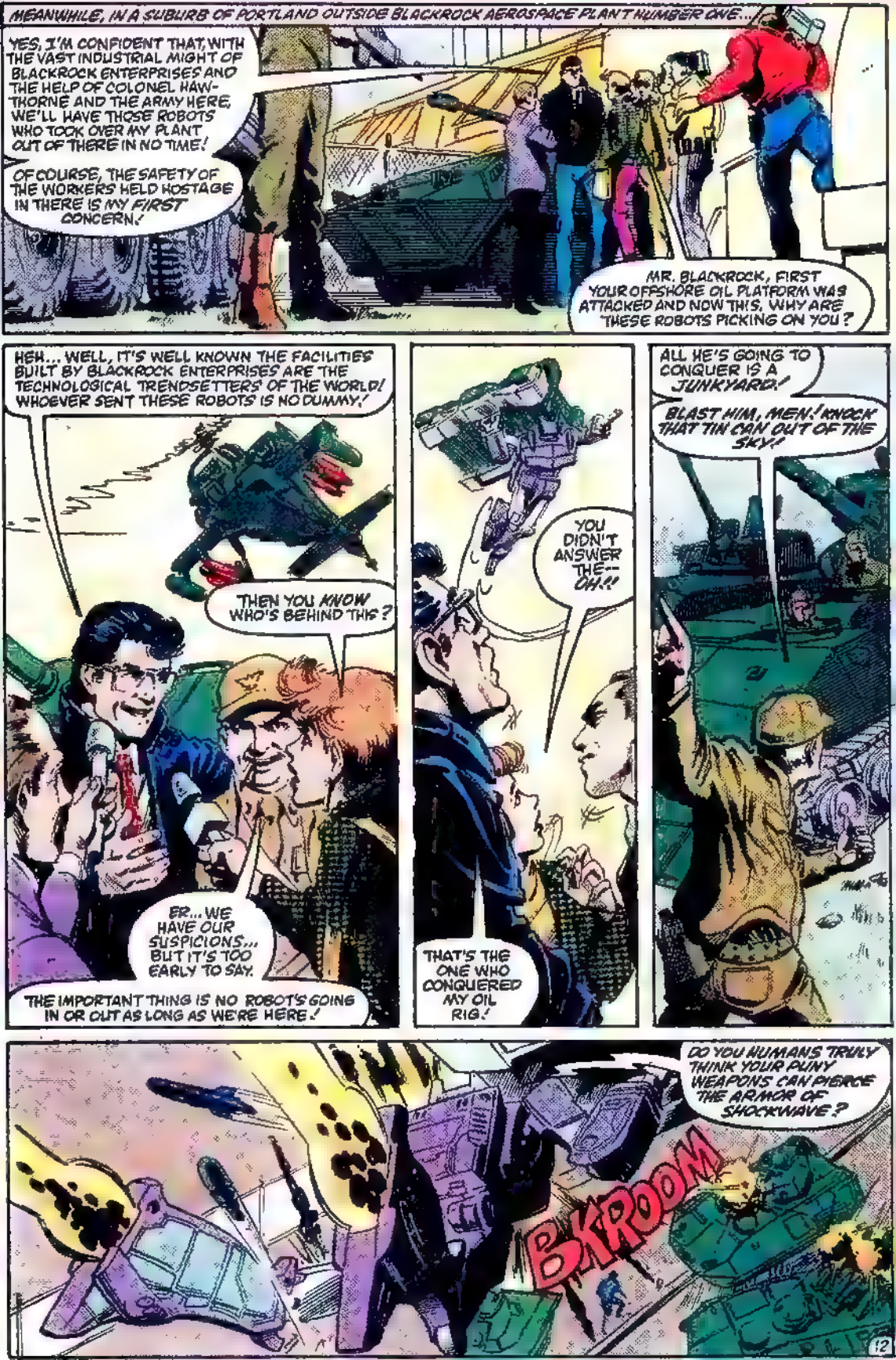
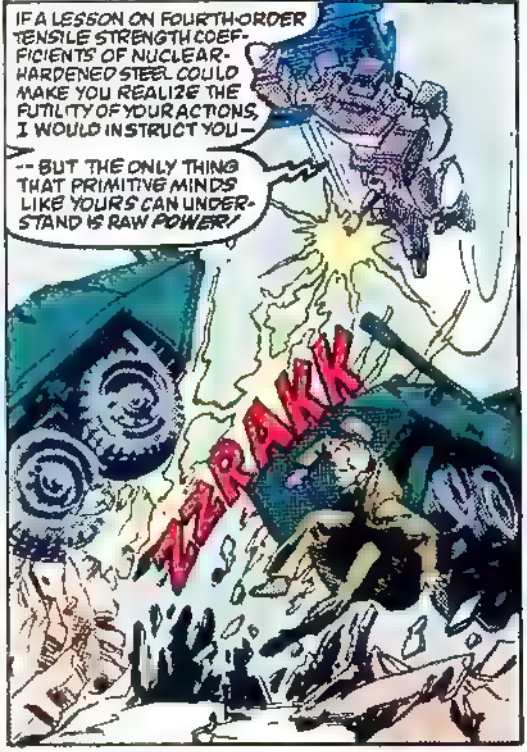
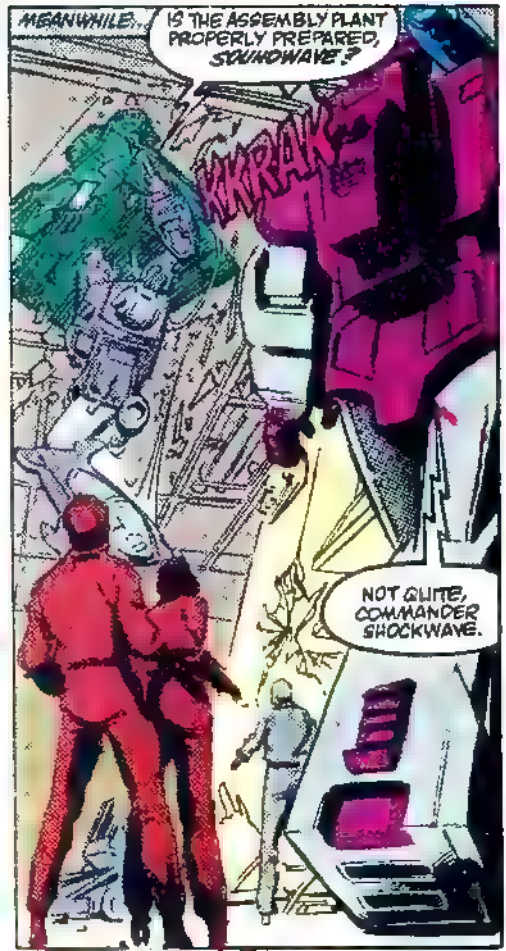
TOKEN 2
GIANT FREE
POSTER-INSIDE!

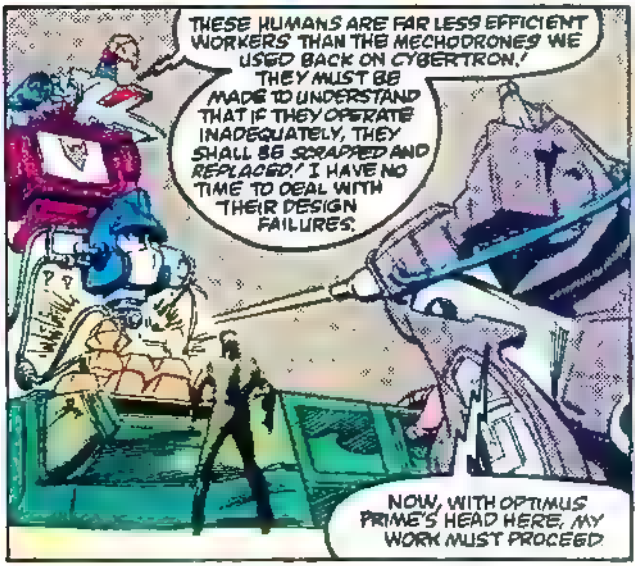

MEANWHILE, IN A SUBURB OF PORTLAND OUTSIDE BLACKROCK AEROSPACE PLANT NUMBER ONE...
YES, I'M CONFIDENT THAT, WITH THE VAST INDUSTRIAL MIGHT OF BLACKROCK ENTERPRISES AND THE HELP OF COLONEL HAWTHORNE AND THE ARMY HERE, WE'LL HAVE THOSE ROBOTS WHO TOOK OVER MY PLANT OUT OF THERE IN NO TIME!
OF COURSE, THE SAFETY OF THE WORKERS HELD HOSTAGE IN THERE IS MY FIRST CONCERN.
MR. BLACKROCK, FIRST YOUR OFFSHORE OIL PLATFORM WAS ATTACKED AND NOW THIS. WHY ARE THESE ROBOTS PICKING ON YOU?
HEH... WELL, IT'S WELL KNOWN THE FACILITIES BUILT BY BLACKROCK ENTERPRISES ARE THE TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDSETTERS OF THE WORLD! WHOEVER SENT THESE ROBOTS IS NO DUMMY.
THEN YOU KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS?
ER... WE HAVE OUR SUSPICIONS... BUT IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY.
THE IMPORTANT THING IS NO ROBOTS GOING IN OR OUT AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE.
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER THE-- OH!!
THAT'S THE ONE WHO CONQUERED MY OIL RIG!
ALL HE'S GOING TO CONQUER IS A JUNKYARD!
BLAST HIM, MEN! KNOCK THAT TIN CAN OUT OF THE SKY!
DO YOU HUMANS TRULY THINK YOUR PUNY WEAPONS CAN PIERCE THE ARMOR OF SHOCKWAVE?
BKROOM

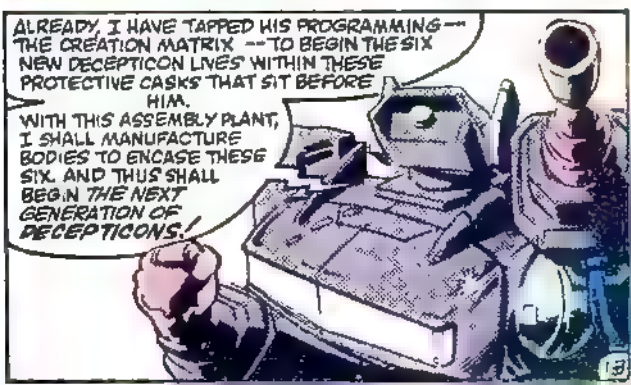

IF A LESSON ON FOURTH-ORDER TENSILE STRENGTH COEFFICIENTS OF NUCLEAR-HARDENED STEEL COULD MAKE YOU REALIZE THE FUTILITY OF YOUR ACTIONS, I WOULD INSTRUCT YOU—
--BUT THE ONLY THING THAT PRIMITIVE MINDS LIKE YOURS CAN UNDERSTAND IS RAW POWER!
ZZRAKK

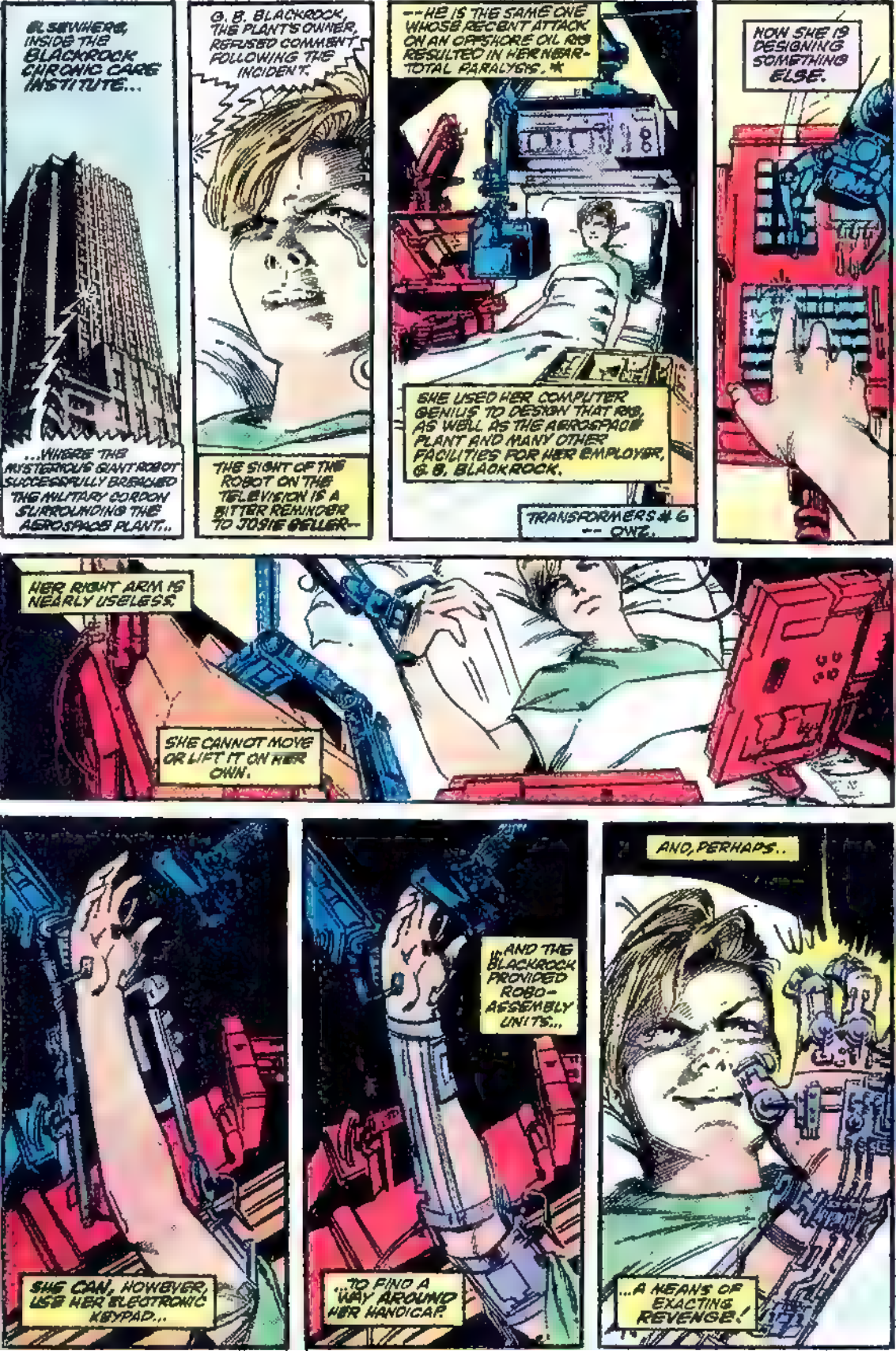
COLONEL, PLEASE, STOP SHOOTING! THOSE SHELLS ARE BOUNCING OFF HIM LIKE PING-PONG BALLS! MY WORKERS INSIDE THE PLANT COULD GET HURT!
CEASE FIRE!

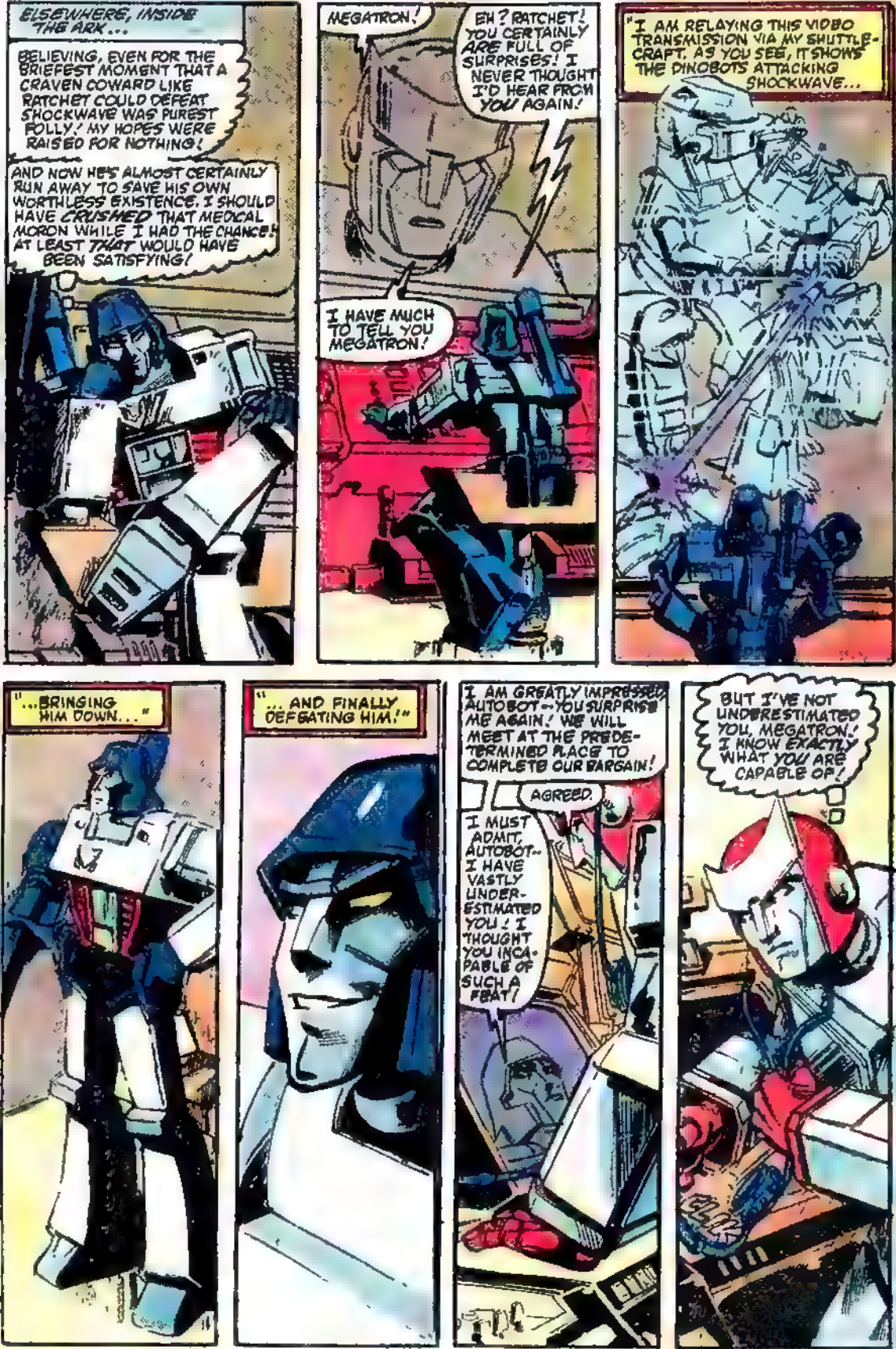
THE FORCES HERE ARE APPARENTLY INSUFFICIENT TO STOP THESE ROBOTS, MR. BLACKROCK. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION?
MR. BLACKROCK?

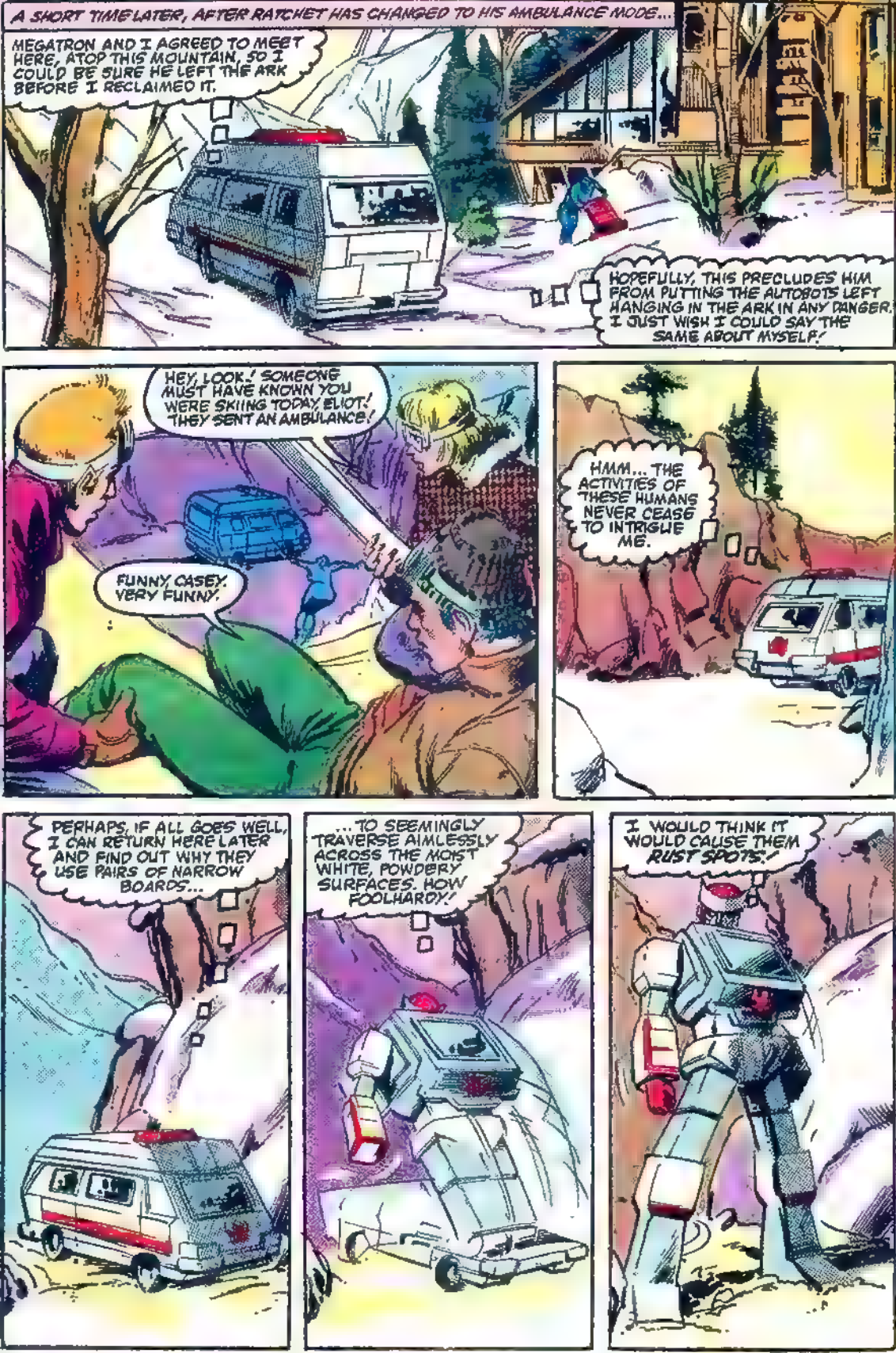

MEANWHILE...
IS THE ASSEMBLY PLANT PROPERLY PREPARED, SOUNDWAVE?
KKRAK
NOT QUITE, COMMANDER SHOCKWAVE.

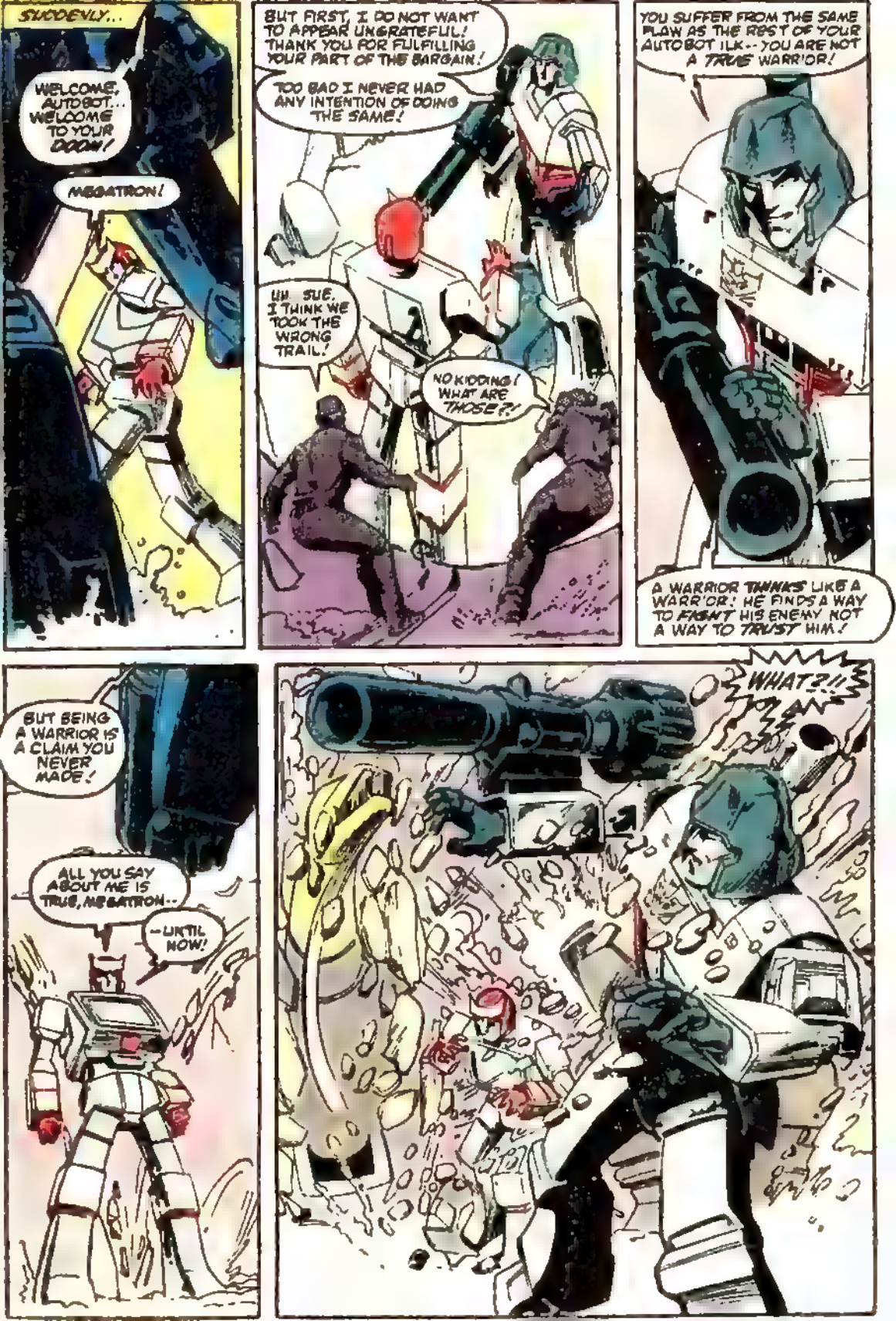

THESE HUMANS ARE FAR LESS EFFICIENT WORKERS THAN THE MECHODRONES WE USED BACK ON CYBERTRON.' THEY MUST BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT IF THEY OPERATE INADEQUATELY, THEY SHALL BE SCRAPPED AND REPLACED.' I HAVE NO TIME TO DEAL WITH THEIR DESIGN FAILURES.
NOW, WITH OPTIMUS PRIME'S HEAD HERE, MY WORK MUST PROCEED


ALREADY, I HAVE TAPPED HIS PROGRAMMING— THE CREATION MATRIX —TO BEGIN THE SIX NEW DECEPTICON LIVES WITHIN THESE PROTECTIVE CASKS THAT SIT BEFORE HIM.
WITH THIS ASSEMBLY PLANT, I SHALL MANUFACTURE BODIES TO ENCASE THESE SIX. AND THUS SHALL BEGIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF DECEPTICONS!

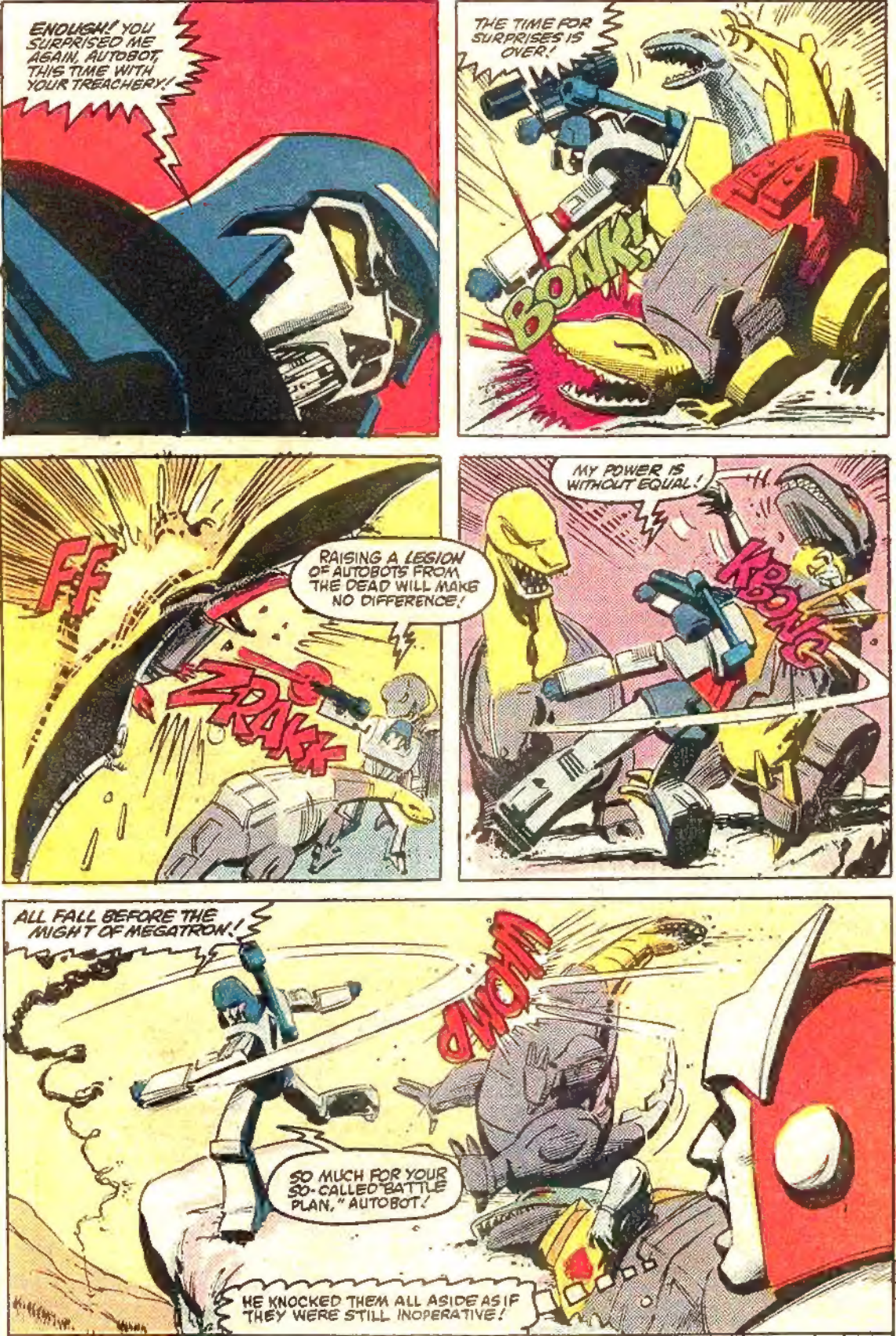

ELSEWHERE, INSIDE THE BLACKROCK CHRONIC CARE INSTITUTE...
...WHERE THE MYSTERIOUS GIANT ROBOT SUCCESSFULLY BREACHED THE MILITARY CORDON SURROUNDING THE AEROSPACE PLANT...
G. B. BLACKROCK, THE PLANT'S OWNER, REFUSED COMMENT FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT.
THE SIGHT OF THE ROBOT ON THE TELEVISION IS A BITTER REMINDER TO JOSIE GELLER--
--HE IS THE SAME ONE WHOSE RECENT ATTACK ON AN OFFSHORE OIL RIG RESULTED IN HER NEAR-TOTAL PARALYSIS. ★
SHE USED HER COMPUTER GENIUS TO DESIGN THAT RIG, AS WELL AS THE AEROSPACE PLANT AND MANY OTHER FACILITIES FOR HER EMPLOYER, G. B. BLACKROCK.
TRANSFORMERS # 6 -- OWZ.
NOW SHE IS DESIGNING SOMETHING ELSE.
HER RIGHT ARM IS NEARLY USELESS.
SHE CANNOT MOVE OR LIFT IT ON HER OWN.
SHE CAN, HOWEVER, USE HER ELECTRONIC KEYPAD...
AND THE BLACKROCK PROVIDED ROBO-ASSEMBLY UNITS...
TO FIND A WAY AROUND HER HANDICAP.
AND, PERHAPS..
...A MEANS OF EXACTING REVENGE!

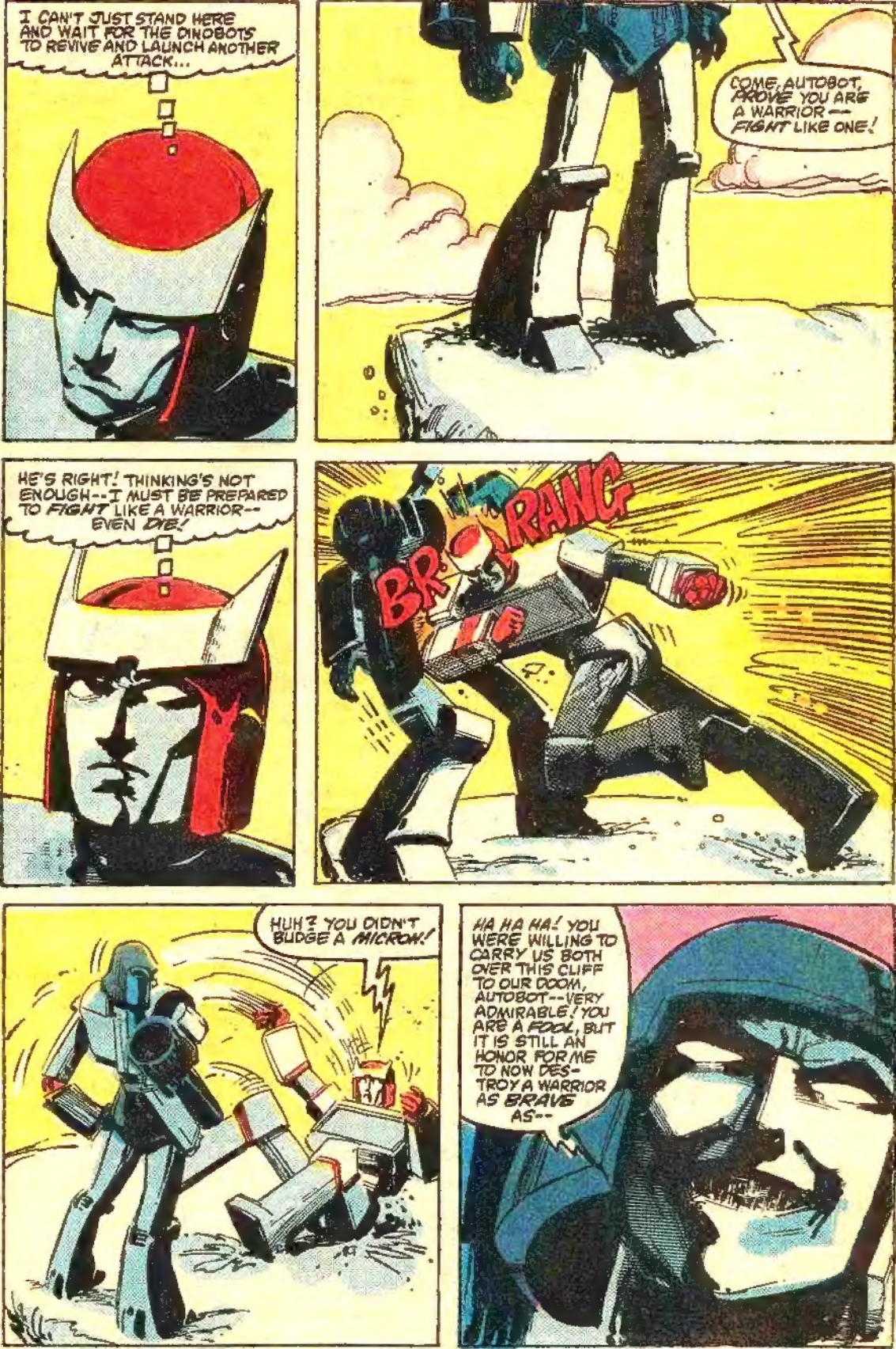

ELSEWHERE, INSIDE THE ARK...
BELIEVING, EVEN FOR THE BRIEFEST MOMENT THAT A CRAVEN COWARD LIKE RATCHET COULD DEFEAT SHOCKWAVE WAS PUREST FOLLY,' MY HOPES WERE RAISED FOR NOTHING!
AND NOW HE'S ALMOST CERTAINLY RUN AWAY TO SAVE HIS OWN WORTHLESS EXISTENCE. I SHOULD HAVE CRUSHED THAT MEDICAL MORON WHILE I HAD THE CHANCE! AT LEAST THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN SATISFYING!
MEGATRON!
EH? RATCHET! YOU CERTAINLY ARE FULL OF SURPRISES! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR FROM YOU AGAIN!
I HAVE MUCH TO TELL YOU MEGATRON!
"I AM RELAYING THIS VIDEO TRANSMISSION VIA MY SHUTTLE-CRAFT. AS YOU SEE, IT SHOWS THE DINOBOTS ATTACKING SHOCKWAVE...
"...BRINGING HIM DOWN..."
"... AND FINALLY DEFEATING HIM!"
I AM GREATLY IMPRESSED, AUTOBOT--YOU SURPRISE ME AGAIN! WE WILL MEET AT THE PREDETERMINED PLACE TO COMPLETE OUR BARGAIN!
AGREED.
I MUST ADMIT, AUTOBOT--I HAVE VASTLY UNDERESTIMATED YOU! I THOUGHT YOU INCAPABLE OF SUCH A FEAT!
BUT I'VE NOT UNDERESTIMATED YOU, MEGATRON! I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF!

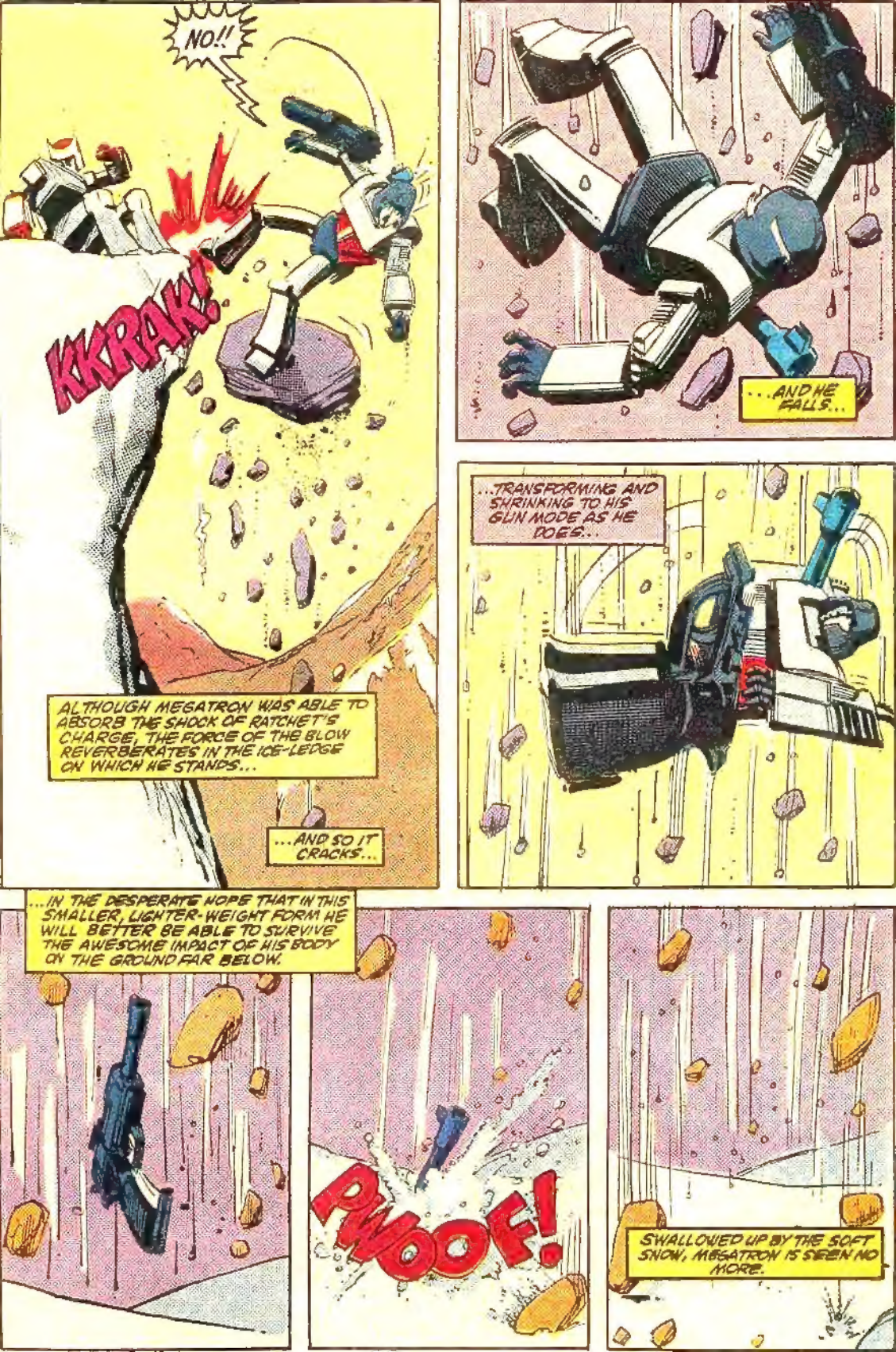

A SHORT TIME LATER, AFTER RATCHET HAS CHANGED TO HIS AMBULANCE MODE...
MEGATRON AND I AGREED TO MEET HERE, ATOP THIS MOUNTAIN, SO I COULD BE SURE HE LEFT THE ARK BEFORE I RECLAIMED IT.
HOPEFULLY, THIS PRECLUDES HIM FROM PUTTING THE AUTOBOTS LEFT HANGING IN THE ARK IN ANY DANGER. I JUST WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT MYSELF!
HEY, LOOK! SOMEONE MUST HAVE KNOWN YOU WERE SKIING TODAY, ELIOT! THEY SENT AN AMBULANCE!
FUNNY, CASEY. VERY FUNNY.
HMM... THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE HUMANS NEVER CEASE TO INTRIGUE ME.
PERHAPS, IF ALL GOES WELL, I CAN RETURN HERE LATER AND FIND OUT WHY THEY USE PAIRS OF NARROW BOARDS...
...TO SEEMINGLY TRAVERSE AIMLESSLY ACROSS THE MOIST WHITE, POWDERY SURFACES. HOW FOOLHARDY!
I WOULD THINK IT WOULD CAUSE THEM RUST SPOTS!

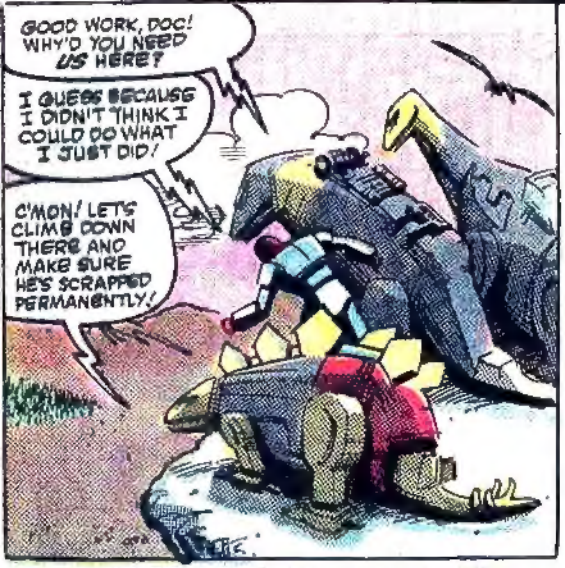

SUDDENLY...
WELCOME, AUTOBOT... WELCOME TO YOUR DOOM!
MEGATRON!
BUT FIRST, I DO NOT WANT TO APPEAR UNGRATEFUL! THANK YOU FOR FULFILLING YOUR PART OF THE BARGAIN!
TOO BAD I NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF DOING THE SAME!
UH, SUE, I THINK WE TOOK THE WRONG TRAIL!
NO KIDDING! WHAT ARE THOSE?!
YOU SUFFER FROM THE SAME FLAW AS THE REST OF YOUR AUTOBOT ILK-- YOU ARE NOT A TRUE WARRIOR!
A WARRIOR THINKS LIKE A WARRIOR! HE FINDS A WAY TO FAIGHT HIS ENEMY NOT A WAY TO TRUST HIM!
BUT BEING A WARRIOR IS A CLAIM YOU NEVER MADE!
ALL YOU SAY ABOUT ME IS TRUE, MEGATRON--
--UNTIL NOW!
WHAT?!!

I MAY LACK YOUR CREDENTIALS, IN THE WAYS OF WAR, MEGATRON, BUT I'M NO FOOL! I WAS SWORN TO UPHOLD OUR PACT--
BUT I KNEW YOU WOULD VIOLATE IT! SO I LED YOU TO BELIEVE SHOCKWAVE WAS DEFEATED BY TRANSMITTING IMAGES OF THE DINOBOTS DEFEATING HIM--FROM FOUR MILLION YEARS AGO!
MEANWHILE, I SENT THEM AHEAD TO LIE IN WAIT FOR YOU, HERE, BURIED UNDER THIS WHITE POWDER! SO, WHEN YOU BROKE THE PACT BY THREATENING TO KILL ME JUST NOW, I WAS PREPARED TO FIGHT BACK.
YOU WILL DIE FOR THIS, AUTOBOT!
THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE US BACK IN THE LODGE!
IF WE GET THERE!
YOU WILL ALL-- YARRGH!
SOKOW
KLANG
WHAM
YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH, BIG MOUTH!
YEAH, WE DINOBOTS AIN'T MUCK FOR TALKIN'!
WE LIKE ACTION!


ENOUGH! YOU SURPRISED ME AGAIN, AUTOBOT, THIS TIME WITH YOUR TREACHERY!
THE TIME FOR SURPRISES IS OVER!
BONK!
FF
RAISING A LEGION OF AUTOBOTS FROM THE DEAD WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE!
ZRAKK
MY POWER IS WITHOUT EQUAL!
KBONG
ALL FALL BEFORE THE MIGHT OF MEGATRON!
WHOP
SO MUCH FOR YOUR SO-CALLED "BATTLE PLAN," AUTOBOT!
HE KNOCKED THEM ALL ASIDE AS IF THEY WERE STILL INOPERATIVE!

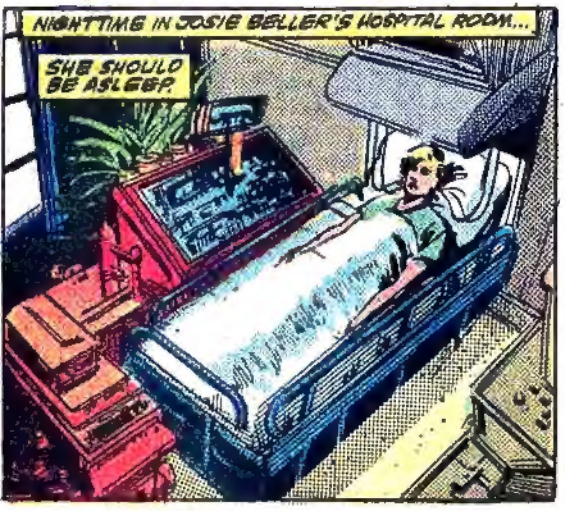

I CAN'T JUST STAND HERE AND WAIT FOR THE DINOBOTS TO REVIVE AND LAUNCH ANOTHER ATTACK...
COME, AUTOBOT, PROVE YOU ARE A WARRIOR — FIGHT LIKE ONE!
HE'S RIGHT! THINKING'S NOT ENOUGH--I MUST BE PREPARED TO FIGHT LIKE A WARRIOR-- EVEN DIE!
BR RANG
HUH? YOU DIDN'T BUDGE A MICRON!
HA HA HA! YOU WERE WILLING TO CARRY US BOTH OVER THIS CLIFF TO OUR DOOM, AUTOBOT--VERY ADMIRABLE! YOU ARE A FOOL, BUT IT IS STILL AN HONOR FOR ME TO NOW DESTROY A WARRIOR AS BRAVE AS--

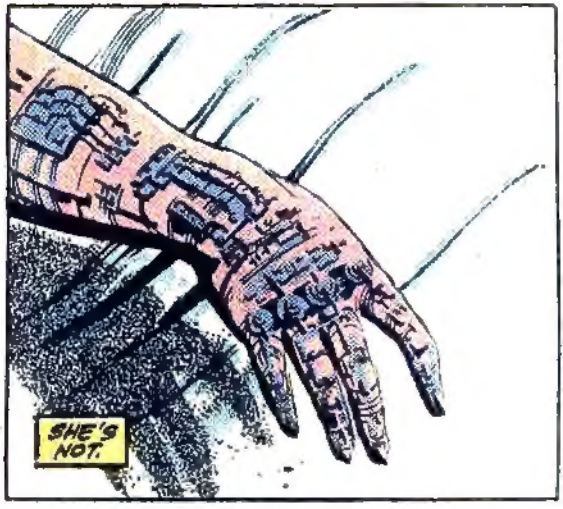

NO!!
KKRAK!
ALTHOUGH MEGATRON WAS ABLE TO ABSORB THE SHOCK OF RATCHET'S CHARGE, THE FORCE OF THE BLOW REVERBERATES IN THE ICE-LEDGE ON WHICH HE STANDS...
...AND SO IT CRACKS...
...AND HE FALLS...
...TRANSFORMING AND SHRINKING TO HIS GUN MODE AS HE DOES...
...IN THE DESPERATE HOPE THAT IN THIS SMALLER, LIGHTER-WEIGHT FORM HE WILL BETTER BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE AWESOME IMPACT OF HIS BODY ON THE GROUND FAR BELOW.
PWOOF!
SWALLOWED UP BY THE SOFT SNOW, MEGATRON IS SEEN NO MORE.

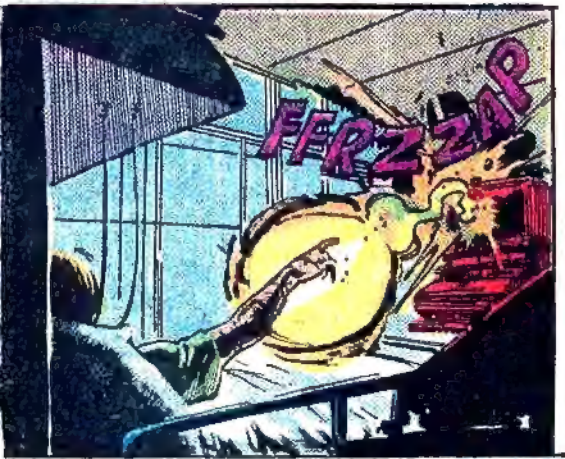

GOOD WORK, DOC! WHY'D YOU NEED US HERE?
I GUESS BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK I COULD DO WHAT I JUST DID!
C'MON! LET'S CLIMB DOWN THERE AND MAKE SURE HE'S SCRAPPED PERMANENTLY!

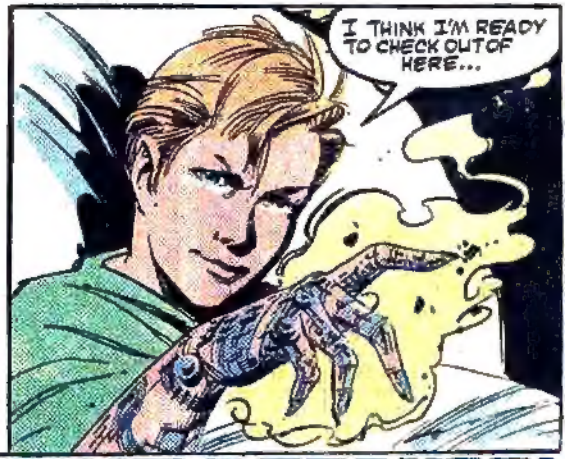
ER... I THINK RIGHT NOW IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO WAKE UP SOME FRIENDS BACK AT THE ARK!
BESIDES, I'M NOT TOO CERTAIN WE'D BE SO LUCKY WITH MEGATRON A SECOND TIME!
BUT WHO CARES -- THE AUTOBOTS ARE FREE!

EPILOGUE:









NEXT ISSUE: *HIDE YOUR PERSONAL COMPUTER! TRADE IN YOUR VCR! NO MACHINE IS SAFE FROM:*

CIRCUIT BREAKER!